



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

April 18, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up
CC Docket No. 96-45; WC Docket 03-109

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As state representatives from Racine, the Wisconsin city with the unfortunate distinction of having one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, we are writing to urge you to maintain the Lifeline program and not impose caps which might limit participation.

Racine has been particularly hard hit by the recent economic downturn, and many members of our community struggle to make ends meet and find work. As you know, the Lifeline program helps to ensure that low-income households have access to a phone to report emergencies, stay connected to employment, or connect with family. The program has been shown to help participants improve their financial situation and find or keep employment. These phone services are incredibly valuable to our constituents, and we urge you to maintain these programs and ensure their continued success.

We have been pleased to see the FCC-Federal and State Joint Board on Universal Service Lifeline and Link Up make recommendations to the FCC to reduce fraud and abuse in the program. We applaud your efforts to increase participation in Lifeline and Link Up, as well as your focus on improving the programs to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing issues impacting the Lifeline program. In these challenging economic times, this program is extremely important to our constituents. We hope you will maintain the program and continue to seek ways to increase participation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cory Mason
State Representative
62nd Assembly District

Robert Turner
State Representative
61st Assembly District